

# Langley Air Force Base / NASA Langley Research Center

**EPA Region 3 EPA ID#** VA2800005033    **Last Update:** May 2000  
Virginia  
Hampton        **2nd Congressional District**    **Other Names:** None

## Current Site Status

Several sites are currently in the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) stage. Records of Decision have been signed by NASA and the EPA for the Area E Warehouse Operable Unit (OU) and the Tabbs Creek OU. Two Records of Decision have been signed for the LAFB. Dredging of soils contaminated with PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) and PCTs (Polychlorinated Terphenyls) along Tabbs Creek began in December 1999 and should take six to eight months to complete.

## Site Description

The Langley Air Force Base (LAFB)/NASA Langley Research Center (NASA LaRC) site in Hampton, Virginia consists of two Federal facilities. LAFB covers 3,152 acres, has been an airfield and aeronautical research center since 1917, and is the home base for the First Fighter Wing. NASA LaRC is consists of 787 acres and is a

research facility that conducts numerous operations in nearly 200 buildings and 40 wind tunnels. Wastes generated at LAFB include petroleum, oils and lubricants, fuels, solvents, paints, pesticides, photographic chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals. Wastes generated at NASA LaRC include waste oils, solvents, paint wastes, pesticide containers and rinse waters, photographic wastes, scrap materials, used batteries, and printed circuit board plating wastes. PCBs and polychlorinated terphenyls were used in hydraulic systems, electrical equipment, compressors, and casting operations. There are more than 40 sources of possible contamination at the two facilities. These sources include abandoned landfills, fueling areas, wastewater treatment plants, the storm water system, warehouses, spill sites, electrical substations and transformers, fuel tanks, burning areas, septic tanks, storage areas, waste pits, and training areas. LAFB supports more than 10,000 employees, and NASA Langley employs 5,000 people. The nearby Back River supports commercial and recreational crab, oyster, quahog, and fin fishing. Its two branches form a tidal estuary that empties into the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Site Responsibility**

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of the Federal government.

### **NPL Listing History**

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on May 10, 1993. The site was formally added to the list May 31, 1994, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Soils at the landfills are contaminated with waste solvents and paints, used batteries, scrap metals, pesticides, municipal wastes, general chemicals, sanitary refuse, photo finishing wastes, and hospital and laboratory wastes. Ground water is contaminated with lead, cadmium, silver, and phenols. Information indicates this area historically has been predominantly wetlands. Sediments and biota in the Back River and Tabbs Creek are contaminated extensively with PCBs and PCTs. Tabbs Creek has been posted as a "No

Fishing" area because of coliform contamination. Electrical equipment containing PCBs and lubricating oils, hydraulic fluids, mercury, and pesticides have been released on the site. Touching or ingesting contaminated soils, ground water, sediments, or fish could pose a health risk.

## **Cleanup Progress**

Several sites are currently in the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) stage. At NASA LaRC, the Construction Debris Landfill is currently undergoing an RI/FS. Records of Decision have been signed by NASA and the EPA for the Area E Warehouse Operable Unit (OU) and the Tabbs Creek OU. Remedies selected for these sites include institutional controls at the Area E Warehouse OU and dredging and off-site excavation for Tabbs Creek. Tabbs Creek remediation is expected to begin during the summer of 1999.

Sites under investigation at LAFB include the storm sewer system, paint shop, an abandoned entomology building, 10 landfills, a fire training area, wastewater treatment plants and the Back River. Several removal actions have taken place at LAFB. These include soil removal at the old entomology plant/wastewater treatment plant area, PCB contaminated soil removal at the abandoned electrical substation, demolition and disposal of the entomology building and excavation of chlorinated pesticide and herbicide contaminated soil, removal of soil and associated piping at an old wastewater treatment plant and removal of contaminated soils at an old transformer storage area. Two Records of Decision have been signed for the LAFB. These RODs address soils at OU42 (IRP Sites OT-38 A and B, Burn Pits) and OU47 (IRP Site 51). Both RODs were for no action. Groundwater is being addressed Basewide. Remedial Investigations for ten sites are currently under regulatory review.

## **Contacts**

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Poquoson Public Library  
774 Poquoson Ave.  
Poquoson, VA 23662

Hampton Central Library  
4207 Victoria Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23669

Floyd L. Thompson Library  
NASA Langley Research Center  
Hampton, VA 23665

Langley AFB  
Administrative Record Room 1 CES/CEVR  
37 Sweeney Boulevard Building Number 328  
Langley AFB, VA 23665